

# Coalition for Practical Regulation Flawed rules or firefighters?

**It's  
about  
saving  
jobs.**

## An Urgent Appeal to Governor Gray Davis

### RE: Modification of Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Stormwater Regulations

Dear Governor Davis:

You have been very sensitive to the budget problems facing California's cities and counties. Thank you. However, one of your agencies, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, has approved stormwater regulations that will create budgetary chaos for local governments, while delivering minimal if any environmental benefits.

In considering its new stormwater regulations, the Board failed to conduct the state-required cost-benefit analysis. This was a devastating oversight, as illustrated by studies undertaken by some of the impacted stakeholders.

A study commissioned by the California Department of Transportation estimated that these stormwater regulations will cost \$54 billion and could trigger property tax increases of up to seventy percent (70%) for Southern California homeowners – equivalent to a family budget busting tax of \$1,295.00 a year.

The staggering costs imposed by the Board's ineffective stormwater regulations will force cities, already suffering from thinly stretched budgets, to pay for compliance by raising taxes or by cutting essential public services such as law enforcement and fire protection. Is it sound public policy to sacrifice the jobs of police officers and firefighters in support of a policy which even the Board's own staff concedes will not achieve any noticeable improvement in water quality for at least 20 years, if then?

The private sector will suffer as well. These draconian regulations will create delays and obstacles for construction of new residential, commercial and industrial projects, resulting in the loss of thousands of construction jobs throughout Southern California. And hundreds of small businesses will be forced to downsize or close their doors altogether under the burden of the severe new restrictions associated with these rules.

Finally, local governments and businesses will be faced with the prospect of numerous lawsuits for even minor or unintentional violations. The system simply cannot support the added drain on financial and human resources threatened by the litigation enabled by the Board's regulations.

Let us make one thing perfectly clear: We support the goal of improved water quality and are firmly committed to making that goal a reality. But we have a responsibility to our citizens to make sure that they get their money's worth from our efforts. Unfortunately, the Regional Board's approach will not only fail to deliver meaningful environmental benefits, it will force the diversion of billions of dollars from more reasonable programs that might actually help. This is an unacceptable burden to all levels of government already in budget crisis.

We need your help now to prevent what could be the largest single blow to the Southland's economy in recent history!

We urge you to support our cities and Los Angeles County in their effort to amend the L.A. Regional Board's costly, environmentally ineffective stormwater rules. We urge you to make your view known to the State Water Resources Board that you are extremely concerned about the financial burden these regulations will force on our local cities, businesses and homeowners and direct the State Water Resources Board to do a complete economic-impact study of these regulations prior to their adoption and implementation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

- Mayor pro tem Walter Allen III - City of Covina
- Mayor Francisco Alonso - City of Monterey Park
- Council Member David W. Amertea - City of Pico Rivera
- Mayor pro tem Alfred B. Balderama - City of Monterey Park
- Council Member Harry L. Baldwin - City of San Gabriel
- Mayor pro tem George Francis Bass - City of Bell
- Council Member Ken Blackwood - City of Lomita
- Mayor Lara Laramendi Blakely - City of Monrovia
- Mayor Bill Bogard - City of Pasadena
- Council Member Randy Bongaers - City of Bellflower
- Mayor Mark A. Breceda - City of Inlandville
- Mayor pro tem Robert W. Bruesch - City of Rosemead
- Council Member David Butler - City of Whittier
- Council Member Louis Byrd - City of Lynwood
- Council Member Kirk O. Carbozan - City of Downey
- Mayor pro tem Jesus M. Cervantes - City of Commerce
- Mayor Wen P. Chang - City of Diamond Bar
- Council Member Margaret Clark - City of Rosemead
- Mayor Edward S. Cortez - City of Pomona
- Vice Mayor Gene Daniels - City of Paramount
- Mayor Betty De Santis - City of Westlake Village
- Council Member Bart Doyle - City of Sierra Madre
- Council Member John Fasana - City of Duarte
- Council Member Larry Forester - City of Signal Hill
- Council Member Carlos A. Garcia - City of Pico Rivera
- Council Member Manuel E. Guillen - City of Paramount

- Mayor Tina Hansen - City of Signal Hill
- Council Member Henry Harkema - City of Paramount
- Mayor pro tem Doug Hayes - City of Sierra Madre
- Council Member Bob Henderson - City of Whittier
- Council Member Carol A. Herrera - City of Diamond Bar
- Mayor Harold E. Hofmann - City of Lawndale
- Council Member Dorothy R. King - City of Bellflower
- Mayor Harry A. Knapp - City of South Pasadena
- Mayor Glenn Lambdin - City of Sierra Madre
- Mayor pro tem Scott A. Larsen - City of Bellflower
- Council Member David T. Lau - City of Monterey Park
- Council Member Algrid G. Leiga - City of Claremont
- Mayor Peggy Lemons - City of Paramount
- Mayor Rosalina G. Lopez - City of Commerce
- Mayor John Lyon - City of Artesia
- Council Member Sharon Martinez - City of Monterey Park
- Council Member Keith McCarthy - City of Downey
- Council Member Michael L. Miller - City of West Covina
- Council Member Marshall Mouw - City of Glendora
- Council Member Diane J. Martinez - City of Paramount
- Council Member Owen Newcomer - City of Whittier
- Vice Mayor Michael Noll - City of Signal Hill
- Council Member J. Greg Nordbak - City of Whittier
- Mayor pro tem - Debby O'Connor - City of Diamond Bar
- Mayor Meredith Perkins - City of Downey
- Mayor Eric J. Perodini - City of Compton

- Mayor John Pratt - City of Bellflower
- Mayor pro tem Beatrice Proo - City of Pico Rivera
- Council Member E. A. "Pete" Ramirez - City of Pico Rivera
- Mayor Frank Roberts - City of Lancaster
- Council Member Ramon Rodriguez - City of Lynwood
- Council Member Karen M. Rosenthal - City of Claremont
- Mayor Gregory Salcido - City of Pico Rivera
- Council Member Ray T. Smith - City of Bellflower
- Mayor John Solis - City of La Puente
- Mayor David A. Spence - City of La Canada Flintridge
- Council Member Gordon Stelenhagen - City of Norwalk
- Council Member Rob Stockly - City of Sierra Madre
- Council Member Tom Sykes - City of Walnut
- Mayor Terrance Terauchi - City of Gardena
- Mayor Michael Touhey - City of West Covina
- Mayor David A. Truxa - City of Covina
- Mayor Larry Van Nostrand - City of Lakewood
- Council Member Joe Vasquez - City of Rosemead
- Council Member Benjamin "Frank" Vanti - City of Monterey Park
- Council Member Edward H. J. Wilson - City of Signal Hill
- Council Member Hope Wilkowski - City of Torrance
- Council Member Benjamin Wong - City of West Covina
- Council Member Robert P. Zirbes - City of Diamond Bar
- Council Member Allen Zolnekoff - City of Whittier